



William (Bill) J. Lyons, Jr.
Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

In January 1999, William (Bill) J. Lyons, Jr. began his tenure as the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), having been appointed by Governor Gray Davis.

Lyons, having worked throughout his career on agricultural, water, and environmental issues, provides leadership to CDFA for the development and implementation of sound agricultural policy for California's \$26.8 billion agricultural industry.

The Lyons family, with strong roots in the Central Valley, has been actively involved in production agriculture for more than 75 years. Lyons, for the past 23 years, has managed the family ranch in the Modesto area. The ranch produces a number of crop and livestock commodities.

Lyons has served as the Chairman of USDA's Farm Service Agency State Committee since 1993, overseeing and enforcing national procedures and policies for USDA farm programs in California. Lyons was also appointed by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors to serve from 1996 to 1998 as Director of the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District.



Since 1978, Lyons has been elected to serve on a number of agriculture-related boards and commissions, including: the California Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors; the Modesto Irrigation District Board of Directors; Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Board of Directors; Stanislaus and Tuolumne County USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services Committee; and the Stanislaus/San Joaquin Counties Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors.

The 48-year-old Modesto area native is a graduate of California State University, Chico, with a Bachelor of Science Degree, and he earned a secondary teaching credential. Lyons has been married to his wife Suzy for the past 20 years. They have four children, and are actively involved in community and family-oriented activities in Modesto.



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